ELECTRIC FLYING CAR

Chinese urban air mobility company XPeng AeroHT, showcased its fifth-generation X2 ‘electric flying car’ in Dubai on October 11. It demonstrates electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) capabilities. The aircraft is lifted by eight propellers - two at each corner of the vehicle. The company says it has a top speed of 130 km per hour. It is a two-seater that adopts a teardrop-shaped design giving it a cool and futuristic look. It doesn’t produce any carbon emission and contributes to reducing the number of ICE vehicles for greener urban transport. The car is most suitable for low-altitude city flights and small journeys such as medical transportations.

Specifications:

- Aircraft type: eVTOL multicopter
- Piloting: Autonomous
- Capacity: 2 passengers
- Maximum speed: 130 kmph (81 mph)
- Flight Time: 35 minutes
- Cruise altitude: 300-500 m (984-1,640 ft)
- Empty weight: 360 kg (794 lbs)
- Maximum takeoff weight: 560 kg (1,235 lbs)
- Propellers: 8 propellers
- Electric Motors: 8 electric motors
- Power source: Batteries
- Fuselage: Carbon fiber composite

- Windows: Canopy over cockpit
- Landing gear: Fixed skid landing
- Safety Features: Distributed Electric Propulsion (DEP), provides safety through redundancy for its passengers and/or cargo. DEP means having multiple propellers and motors on the aircraft so if one or more motors or propellers fail, the other working motors and propellers can safely land the aircraft. The aircraft has a ballistic parachute.



The car's unmanned test flight was successfully completed in 90 minutes. The company's general manager Minguan Qui informed that they are moving step-by-step to introduce the car in the international market. The X2 features two driving modes; manual and autonomous. Xpeng says that in autonomous

flight mode, passengers can start, fly and land the X2 using a single button. As the car is in early stages of development, there is no word on pricing. However, the sixth generation flying car can arrive sometime in 2024 and could cost below $156,600. But this sector still faces major concerns including battery life, air traffic control and safety of pilots.